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A circular black ink stamp from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The text "O I P E" is curved along the top inner edge, and "I A P O" is curved along the top outer edge. The date "DEC 14 2006" is stamped in the center. Along the bottom inner edge, the words "PATENT & TRADE MARK" are visible, and "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE" is curved along the bottom outer edge.

~~Use~~ Application of:

Examiner: Tracy Mae Dove

Group Art Unit: 1745

$$\begin{array}{c}) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \\ : \\) \end{array}$$

December 13, 2006

December 13, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents, other than the U.S. patent documents, are enclosed.

Japan 2003-109590, Japan 2003-77529, Japan 2002-42805, and Japan 2001-273892 were cited in the International Search Report and/or Written Opinion which issued in the corresponding international application. A copy of the International Search Report and a copy of the Written Opinion are enclosed.

The following documents are discussed at the following pages of the specification:

<u>Documents</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
U.S. 6,051,340	4, 5
U.S. 5,795,679	4, 5
U.S. 6,432,585	4, 5
Japan 11-283627	4, 5
Japan 2000-311681	4, 5
WO 00/17949	5
WO 00/17948	6
Japan 2000-215887	6

The following foreign patent documents are believed to be in the same patent family as the following U.S. patent documents:

<u>Foreign Documents</u>	<u>U.S. Patent Documents</u>
Japan 2002-42805	U.S. 6,761,998
Japan 2000-215887	U.S. 6,383,686
Japan 2001-273892	U.S. 2004/0058245
WO 00/17949	U.S. 6,730,434
WO 00/17948 and Japan 2000-311681	U.S. 6,949,312

An English-language abstract for each of the Japanese and the PCT/WO documents listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Application:

<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Date Filed</u>	<u>Applicants</u>
10/871,813	06/21/2004	K. Hagiwara S. Kawakami K. Inoue N. Suzuki

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicants request that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

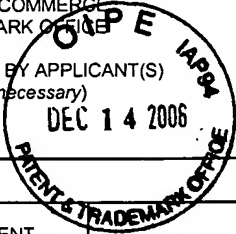
Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Damond E. Vadnais
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No.: 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.000345.		APPLICATION NO. 10/541,222	
				APPLICANT SOICHIRO KAWAKAMI, et al.			
				371(c) FILING DATE July 1, 2005		GROUP 1745	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER		DOCUMENT	DATE	CITATION	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		7,060,117	06/13/06	Ogura, et al.	29	623.2	
		6,949,312	09/27/05	Kawakami, et al.	429	218.1	
		6,924,059	08/02/05	Kawakami, et al.	429	162	
		6,916,678	07/12/05	Kitagawa, et al.	438	58	
		6,761,998	07/13/04	Sato, et al.	429	231.95	
		6,730,434	05/04/04	Kawakami, et al.	429	218.1	
		6,432,585	08/13/02	Kawakami, et al.	429	233	
		6,383,686	05/07/02	Umeno, et al.	429	231.8	
		6,171,727	01/09/01	Ogura, et al.	429	218.2	
		6,051,340	04/18/00	Kawakami, et al.	429	231.95	
		5,795,679	08/18/98	Kawakami, et al.	429	218	
		5,681,394	10/28/97	Suzuki	118	723	
		2006/0127773	06/15/06	Kawakami, et al.	429	245	
		2006/0006837	01/12/06	Ogura, et al.	320	112	
		2005/0003273	01/06/05	Hagiwara, et al.	429	231.95	
		2004/0058245	03/25/04	Fujimoto, et al.	429	231.95	
		2003/0157407	08/21/03	Kosuzu, et al.	429	231.95	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		2003-109590	04/11/03	Japan			Abstract
		2003-77529	03/14/03	Japan			Abstract
		2002-42805	02/08/02	Japan			Abstract
		2001-273892	10/05/01	Japan			Abstract
		2000-311681	11/07/00	Japan			Abstract
		2000-215887	08/04/00	Japan			Abstract
		11-283627	10/15/99	Japan			Abstract
		00/17949	03/30/00	PCT/WO			Abstract
		00/17948	03/30/00	PCT/WO			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.